

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224368

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, KS, KN, US, AS

SUBJECT: ROKG CONCERN OVER PM WHITLAM COMMENTS ON U.S.
RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

1. ROK SECOND SECRETARY PARK KUN WOO HAS CONVEYED TO DEPARTMENT (EA/K) MOFA CONCERN OVER REUTERS ITEM OF OCTOBER 6 DATED LINED WASHINGTON WHICH BEGAN QUOTE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER GOUGH WHITLAM TODAY FORECAST THE U.S. WOULD ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. MR. WHITLAM WAS APPEARING ON NBC'S MEET THE PRESS TELEVISION PROGRAMME NEAR THE END OF A U.S. VISIT AND TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE SAID: "TAKING SIDES IN THE CASE OF THESE DIVIDED COUNTRIES NO LONGER SERVES ANY NATIONAL OR WORLD PURPOSE." END QUOTE.

2. DEPTOFF PROVIDED PERTINENT SECTIONS OF TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE (GORALSKI) MR. PRIME MINISTER, HOW HAS AUSTRALIA
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BENEFITED FROM ITS RELATIONS WITH MAINLAND CHINA, WITH

EAST GERMANY, NORTH KOREA, NORTH VIET NAM.

(PRIME MINISTER): IF ONE IS TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES THEN ONE HAS TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH THEM ON THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. NOW I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH FURTHER YOU WANT ME TO GO ON THIS. THE FACT IS THAT THE RELATIONS WHICH MY GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED WITH THESE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH YOU HAVE MENTIONED WILL BE CONTINUED BY ANY AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT; AND TO TAKE EAST GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY. I DON'T THINK THAT IF THERE IS A CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES THOSE RELATIONS WILL BE SEVERED, AS YOU WILL ULTIMATELY, OBVIOUSLY, ALSO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA. YOU HAVE VERY MEANINGFUL LIAISON ALREADY WITH THE REPUBLIC AND YOU WILL ALSO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AS WELL AS WITH SOUTH KOREA. THAT IS - TAKING SIDES IN THE CASE OF THESE DIVIDED COUNTRIES NO LONGER SERVES ANY NATIONAL OR WORLD PURPOSE. END QUOTE.

3. PARK AGREED THAT MISLEADING IMPRESSION OF REUTERS ITEM RESULTED FROM EDITORIAL JUXTAPOSITION OF FORECAST OF U.S./NK RELATIONS WITH REPORT OF WHITLAM'S TALKS WITH

PRESIDENT FORD AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT SAME TO MOFA. INGERSOLL

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